

budget priorities on this country. When are Republicans going to realize that the majority of Americans reject their mean-spirited budget proposal?

A balanced budget should not come at the expense of the elderly. Let's balance the budget by giving less for defense and ending sweetheart deals to special interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to honor the commitment you made last month with the President and give us a responsible balanced budget that protects children and education and stop this mean-spirited attack on seniors.

PASS BALANCED BUDGET NOW

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday by a vote of 351 to 40, with 133 Democrats joining a unanimous vote on the part of the majority, we passed a resolution reaffirming our commitment to a balanced budget in 7 years using honest numbers.

Well, today we are going to have the second part of the story here. We are going to bring up the President's budget for a vote. We are going to find out just how unanimous the support is among Republicans and Democrats to vote for the President's budget. It is time that we got the basic issues here, and that is do we really support a balanced budget in 7 years?

It has been 12,093 days since the President promised us a 5-year balanced budget. It is time for Republicans and Democrats who agree on saving this country for our children and our children's future to get together and make the President as relevant as he has been all through the 1995, which is irrelevant, and pass a balanced budget over his veto.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, all around Washington, we hear the sounds of the season. Not the holiday season—the budget season.

We hear the word furlough float through the air. Who gets furloughed if the Government keeps shutting down?

But the key question is not furlough—it is how low? How low will the Speaker stoop to satisfy special interest sponsors? How long will GINGRICH sink America's seniors into debt just to pay-off his own political debts?

With every shutdown, we hear the question: Who is essential? But the key question is not who is essential, but what is essential?

To Republicans, essential means the wealth of the upper-class rather than the health of the middle-class. To the GOP, essential means the priorities of powerful political patrons—rather than public programs that protect people.

You hear the GOP say they are making history. But you will not hear them discuss the history of the Reagan-Bush era—and the trillions of dollars of debt they racked up. Those Republicans busted the budget by shifting the tax burden to working families and cutting the safety-net for the most vulnerable.

Sound familiar? As we have all heard one Republican say, "there they go again."

USE HONEST NUMBERS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the stock and bond markets sent a unmistakable signal to Washington: Balance the budget. Congress, the House and the Senate, have passed a balanced budget, the first in decades. The President has vetoed it, claiming that it cuts Medicare spending. In fact, as Hillary Rodham Clinton testified on Capitol Hill very recently, the President's own proposal was to reduce the rate of growth in Medicare spending from around 12 percent to around 7 percent. The budget that was passed by this Congress increases Medicare spending more than 7 percent in every year.

The President of the United States is hiding behind this distortion, this lie, about Medicare, because he wants to avoid balancing the budget.

Yesterday this Congress sent him another message: Balance the budget using honest numbers. Do not cook the books. Do as you promised, standing right here; use the Congressional Budget office figures. The budget the President submitted is \$115 billion out of balance. Let us get to work. Let us do it for America's future, for our children, and for our grandchildren.

LET FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WORK

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a press conference Speaker GINGRICH indicated that there were a great many House Republicans who objected to paying Federal employees for not working. Fair enough. Federal employees do not want to get paid for not working. They want to work. We ought not repeat a situation where we paid out \$750 million to Federal employees for not working. They should have been at work then, and they certainly should be at work now.

There are two things the Speaker could do to rectify the situation. One, we have legislation we are trying to get to the floor that would keep Federal employees on the job and reimburse them subsequently when appropriation became available.

The second thing to do is just what we did during the Reagan administra-

tion, the Bush administration, the Nixon administration and every administration prior. When we had a conflict between the executive and the legislative branches, you pass a clean continuing resolution at the lower of the House or Senate level. You keep the Government functioning. You do not hold Federal employees hostage. And that is what we are doing, and to do it at Christmastime is wrong. It is mean-spirited.

I was in a school yesterday and the principal and teachers came up and said, "You know, these children are not happy like they should be at Christmas time. Their parents are fighting, their parents do not know what the future holds, they are not buying Christmas presents." We have ruined their Christmas, and it is wrong.

□ 1030

REPUBLICAN PROMISE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me remind my colleagues of the fact there was an election in November 1994 when the American people decided to make a great change in this Congress. For the first time in 40 years they decided to put Republicans in charge of both Houses of Congress.

Over this past year we have kept our word to the American people. The central promise that we made to them is that we would balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. And all year we have done that by increasing the amount of money for Medicare, increasing the amount of money for Medicaid, increasing the amount of money for student loans.

Mr. Speaker, during the last shutdown of the Government, the President decided that he would finally agree with us; that we would balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. But over the last 29 days, the President has not kept his word. He has done nothing to further the commitment that he made to the American people that he would balance the budget in 7 years.

Now, the long and short of this is that we are going to keep our word to the American people. We are going to do what we promised we would do. It is time for the President to keep his promise.

THANKS TO SPEAKER GINGRICH WE ARE AT DAY NO. 4 OF SHUT- DOWN NO. 2

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, thanks to Speaker GINGRICH and the new majority, today is day No. 4 of Government shutdown No. 2. All in the last 2